## SECRET

ABST	CROSS FILED BY		
FILE NO.	SOURCE	DATE OF DOCUMENT	ANALYST
200-7-23-620	FEC/MIS Intel	26 Mar 1952	.   <
SUBJECT			DATE
FEC/MIS Intelligen	22 Sept 1955		
PERTINENT INFORMATION			

## THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS EXCERPTED VERBATIM

POLITICAL REPORT

- 2. National and Foreign Affairs:
- a. Premier Contemplates Retiring: Premier YOSHIDA reportedly is giving serious consideration to the idea of retiring now from public office... In view of this situation the Premier is now thinking, on the advice of his political advisor KOJIMA Kazuo, of grooming OGATA Taketors for the premiership. In the opinion of some political observers, YOSHIDA's recent plan for sending OGATA on a goodwill mission to Southeast Asian countries is evidence of the Premier's desire to bring him into the lime light. It is anticipated that the situation will develop within a month or two into "a new political crisis."

Comment. OGATA was at one time editor-in-chief of the "Asahi Shimbun." He is reported to have instigated the publication of an article in the "Asahi" entitled "On Wartime Prime Ministers." General TOJO, then Prime Minister, is said to have been so infuriated that the author of the article committed suicide. OGATA was a member of the Koiso-Yonai Cabinet (1944-1945). Subsequently he was purged...

> THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE SUBJECT IN THIS DOCUMENT.

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(2)(2) Mathods/Sources (2)(C) Foreign Relations

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